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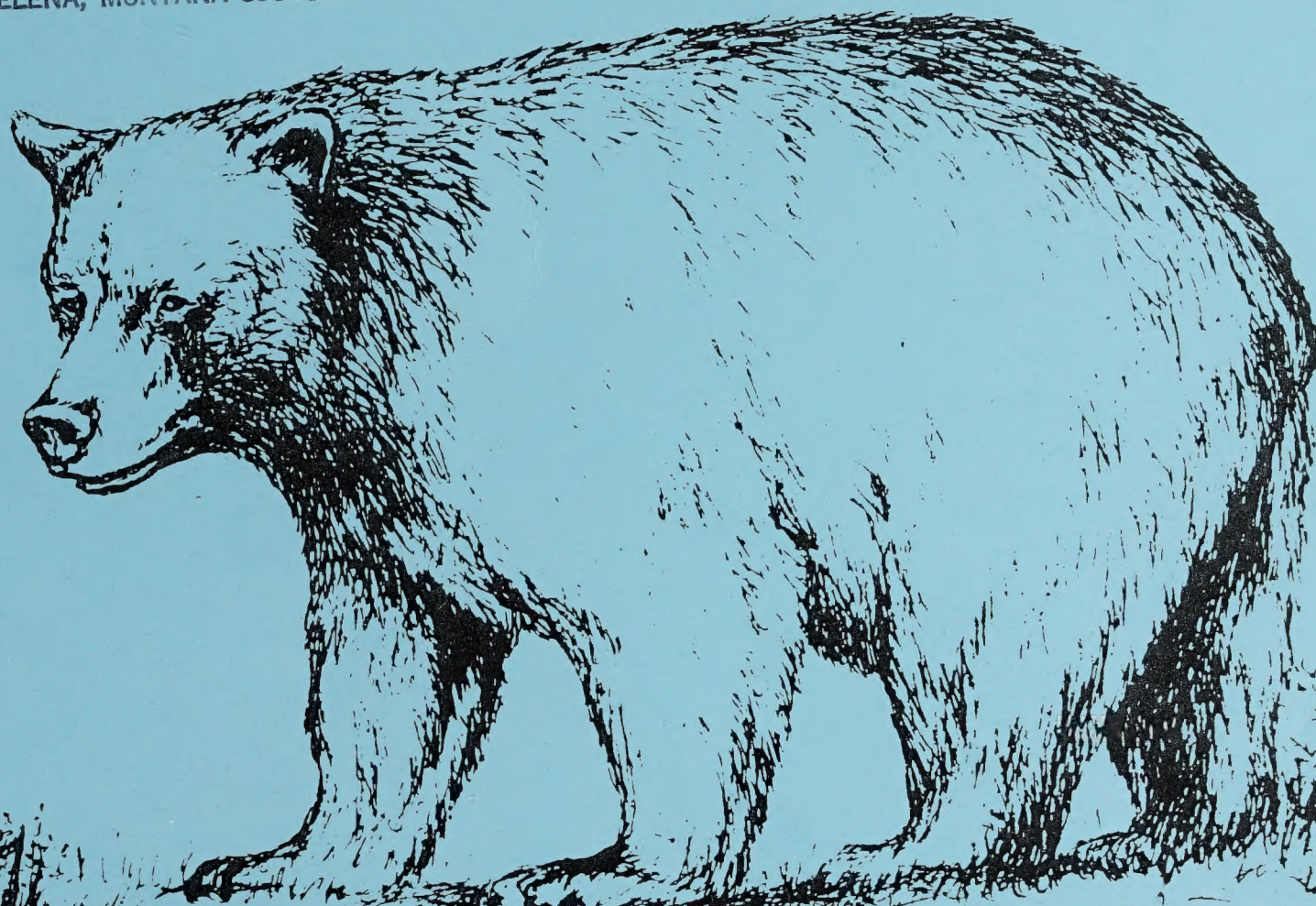
# ANNUAL REPORT

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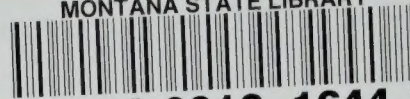
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# ORGANIZATION



The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is charged with the responsibility of providing outdoor recreation for Montanans and their guests.


Montanans have always enjoyed abundant and high quality hunting, fishing and other forms of outdoor recreation. This has been possible partly due to our geography, but it has also required aggressive fish, wildlife and parks management and good stewardship of our basic resources - land and water.

The reality of an expanding human population that cuts across economic, sociological, political and biological processes makes our job continually more challenging.

As the demands upon land and water become greater, the job of providing optimum outdoor recreational opportunities is compounded. But we are determined to meet this challenge through more refined and innovative management and through enhanced public information and education.







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# ORGANIZATION

Commission: Montana is divided into five Fish and Game Commission Districts. Each District is represented by one Fish and Game Commissioner.

Commissioners are appointed by the Governor and must have concurrence of the Senate. Three are appointed to serve terms concurrent with the gubernatorial term. The remaining members are appointed to serve terms ending on the first day of the third January of the succeeding gubernatorial term.

Director: The Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Director is also appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Director serves a term concurrent with that of the Governor. The Director is the chief administrative officer of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; is responsible for all programs and actions of the Department; and has direct authority over all activities and all employees of the Department.

Deputy Director: The Deputy Director is responsible to the Director and has line authority over the following Division Administrators: Enforcement, Centralized Services and Conservation Education.

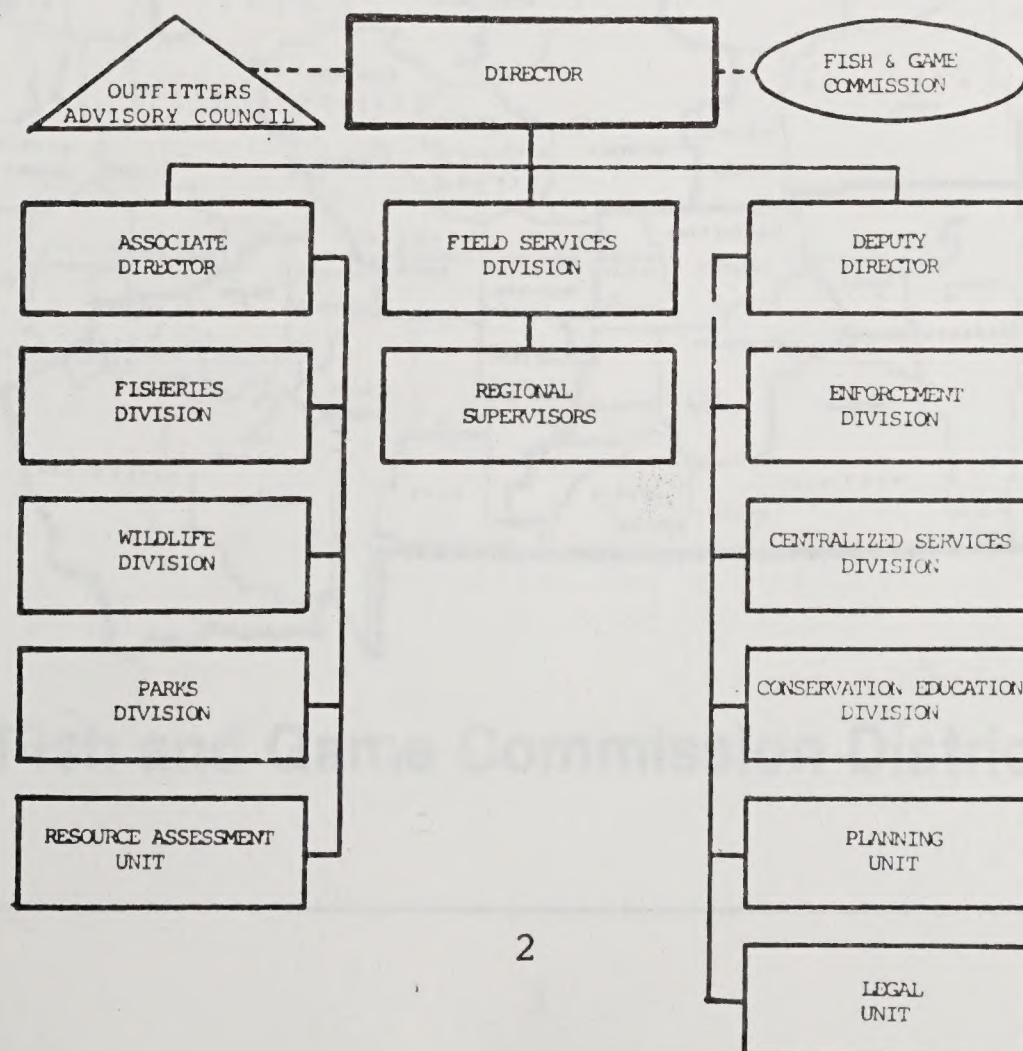
Associate Director: The Associate Director is responsible to the Director and has line authority over the following Division Administrators: Fisheries, Wildlife, Parks and Field Services.

Division Administrator: Division administrators are staff officers who advise the director on matters related to resource management, administration of resource programs and other special problems related to the division's area of expertise.

Administrators are responsible for statewide programs and budgets which they recommend to the Director after considering, among other things, requests and proposals from Regional Supervisors.

Administrators maintain line authority over division staff personnel as assigned by the Director.

Regional Supervisor: Regional Supervisors are line officers who are the Director's representatives in each administrative region. As such, they are the chief administrative officers for respective regions.











## Fish, Wildlife and Parks Administrative Regions



## Fish and Game Commission Districts







# FUNDING

In 1902, the Department's first chief executive wrote, "the protection of game and fish should be self-sustaining. This can only be accomplished by those doing the hunting and fishing paying the cost of sport provided them..." To this day, hunters and fishermen continue to bear most of the financial burden for programs benefiting fish and wildlife. The Department's major source of income is from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses.

The Department's second major source of income consists of a tax on sport hunting and fishing equipment. Federal excise taxes on sport firearms and ammunition comprise the Pittman-Robertson Fund, and similar taxes on fishing equipment comprise the Dingell-Johnson Fund. These funds are made available to the states on a matching basis, 75 percent federal and 25 percent state. The size of the allotment depends upon the size of the state and the state's total license sales.

Other sources of funding include federal and private contracts, cabin site and concession rentals, campground fees, entrance fees at Lewis and Clark State Caverns, fines, and a small appropriation from the state general fund for parks use. Nine-tenths of one percent of the state gasoline tax is earmarked for use on areas used by motorboats, and five-tenths of one percent for snowmobile recreation facilities and promotion of safety and education. The Department also receives benefit of two-thirds of the interest earned on a trust account credited from a portion of the coal severance tax. The interest may be used to acquire, develop and maintain state park system sites.

## Funding

### Revenue Received for FY 1985

Licenses and Permits	\$15,705,573
Service Fees - Misc.	1,648,537
Investment Earnings	1,034,993
Fines	279,181
Reimbursements	711,519
Sale of Documents, Merchandise and Property (Misc.)	904,299
Miscellaneous	86,698
Rentals, Leases and Royalties	109,098
Grants, Gifts, Bequests and Donations	192,885
Income Collections and Transfers	108,454
Federal Assistance	4,850,954
Total	\$25,632,191

Source: SBAS Report 632







MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
FISCAL YEAR 1985  
ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	CENTRALIZED SERVICES	FIELD SERVICES	FISHERIES	LAW ENFORCEMENT	WILDLIFE	PARKS & RECREATION	CONSERVATION		ADMINISTRATION	REVOLVING ACCOUNTS	DEPARTMENT TOTAL
							EDUCATION				
Full Time Equivalent Employees (FTE)	38.85	30.76	126.12	87.33	103.39	87.43	21.25		13.01	5.67	513.81
1000 Personal Services	\$820,178	\$840,879	\$2,922,318	\$2,603,862	\$2,763,919	\$1,663,759	\$ 620,761		\$475,796	\$ 171,887	\$12,883,359
2000 Operating Expenses	920,406	416,505	1,012,934	832,704	1,672,602	809,923	400,022		177,030	1,447,163	7,689,289
3000 Equipment	18,188	59,043	53,769	81,122	69,193	6,852	16,781		10,276	1,265,700	1,580,924
4000 - Capital Outlay, Local Assist.,	7,600					514			6,500		14,614
- 8000 Grants, Transfers			16,000	260,860		624,235			80,000		981,095
Total Actual Expenditures	\$1,766,372	\$1,316,427	\$4,005,021	\$3,778,548	\$4,505,714	\$3,105,283	\$1,037,564		\$749,602	\$2,284,750	\$23,149,281
FUNDING SOURCES											
STATE GENERAL FUND:											
01100 General Fund						640,618					640,618
STATE SPECIAL REVENUE:											
02407 Snowmobile Fuel Tax	21,778			34,959		160,770	18,159				200,707
02408 Coal Tax Trust Earnings	21,283					202,139					258,381
02409 FWP General License	1,373,341	1,270,748	2,448,984	3,206,149	2,143,404	808,336	847,802		667,040		12,765,804
02411 State Parks	43,183			56,978		312,921					413,082
02412 Motorboat Fuel Tax	39,437			74,239		228,139					345,049
02413 Motorboat Certificate ID.				41,412			3,234				44,628
02414 Snowmobile Registration	5,926			25,997		18,611	3,216				50,534
02415 Fishing Access Site Acq.						111,188					111,188
02416 Wardens' Retirement				260,860							260,860
FEDERAL SPECIAL REVENUE:											
All Federal Revenue Funds	261,424	45,679	1,556,037	77,954	2,362,310	622,561	165,153		82,562		5,173,680
ENTERPRISE FUNDS:											
06501 Print Shop/Office Supply										174,959	174,959
06502 Equipment Enterprise										2,397,715	2,397,715
06503 Warehouse Inventory										198,299	198,299
06541 Grounds Maintenance										113,777	113,777
Total Funding Sources	\$1,766,372	\$1,316,427	\$4,005,021	\$3,778,548	\$4,505,714	\$3,105,283	\$1,037,564		\$749,602	\$2,284,750	\$23,149,281
The above figures include Budget Amendments (a) and Legislative Contract Authority (b) as follows:	1.00 FTE	1.76 FTE	35.33 FTE	\$ 88,814	14.25 FTE	-0-	1.00 FTE	-0-	\$ 9,448	\$ 85,958	53.34 FTE
	\$ 24,055	\$ 65,698	\$ 900,903	\$ 88,814	\$ 622,624	\$	\$ 21,998	\$			\$ 1,819,498

(a) Budget Amendments: An added appropriation granted by the Governor's Office to fund contracts, grants, private donations, and emergency situations that originated after the 49th Legislative Session.

(b) Legislative Contract Authority: This spending authority authorized by the Legislature for funding various contracts and grants that are initiated after the 49th Legislative Session.







# CENTRALIZED SERVICES DIVISION



The Centralized Services Division is an administrative and support unit comprised of two bureaus. The Accounting and Finance Bureau is responsible for recording all the financial transactions of the Department. This bureau also acts as a liaison with federal and state auditors and other agencies who review the Department's accounting records. In addition, the bureau assists in the preparation of the biennial budget, manages the Department's warehouse and vehicle fleet, and provides carpentry and metal work services.

The License Bureau has two major functions - administering the license drawings and distributing licenses to our license agents.

The Department has over 400 license agents throughout the state. These agents sell approximately one million general hunting and fishing licenses per year. It is the bureau's responsibility to design the licenses, consign them to the agents and properly account for the proceeds.

The License Bureau also administers the processing of all mail for the Helena Headquarters and the supply room which maintains a stock of office supplies for Helena and regional personnel. In addition, the bureau provides computer programming support and printing services for all Department personnel.

The Centralized Services Division also includes the Word Processing Section. This unit provides typing services for all personnel.







Many Montanans apply for special hunting licenses and permits. The License Bureau is assigned the responsibility of supervising the random selection of the applicants according to state laws and commission policies. In 1984, 105,970 special licenses and permits were issued through the special drawings. The table below summarizes the number of applicants and successuls from the past four years. The statistics illustrate the increased public interest in obtaining one of these limited licenses.

#### DRAWING APPLICATIONS

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
Antelope	38,223	43,588	52,749	56,282
Deer A*	662	1,186	4,007	8,501
Deer B	13,080	21,007	36,542	44,389
Elk Permit	52,689	64,775	75,486	81,098
Deer Permit	8,458	7,679	13,395	9,923
Moose	18,479	18,223	21,051	16,109
Sheep	6,846	6,741	8,170	7,147
Goat	6,267	5,918	6,856	4,685
TOTAL	144,704	169,117	218,256	228,134

#### SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
Antelope	21,240	26,212	32,041	39,080
Deer A*	394	1,114	2,592	4,733
Deer B	9,472	16,895	28,634	40,757
Elk Permit	12,455	13,550	16,285	19,260
Deer Permit	4,571	3,659	2,850	400
Moose	532	577	581	645
Sheep	784	902	1,106	744
Goat	364	338	330	351
TOTAL	49,812	63,247	84,419	105,970

\*Nonresidents only







SUMMARY OF LICENSE AND LICENSE FEES - 1977 - 1985

Resident Licenses	1977	COST	1978	COST	1979	COST	1980	COST	1981	COST	1982	COST	1983	COST	1984	COST	1985	COST
Antelope	25,059	5.00	20,334	5.00	15,855	5.00	17,146	5.00	21,312	5.00	28,111	5.00	36,860	5.00	37,314	6.00	33,869	6.00
Archery	*9,239	6.00	*10,424	6.00	*11,304	6.00	13,945	6.00	15,811	6.00	*17,233	6.00	18,639	6.00	*19,921	6.00	*21,753	6.00
Bear - Black	7,866	6.00	8,305	6.00	9,863	6.00	10,458	6.00	9,775	8.00	7,223	8.00	6,018	8.00	5,392	8.00	5,617	8.00
Bear - Grizzly	411	25.00	497	25.00	472	25.00	537	25.00	675	25.00	626	25.00	485	25.00	470	50.00	288	50.00
Bear-Grizzly Trophy	*5	25.00	*7	25.00	*11	25.00	*12	25.00	11	25.00	*17	25.00	8	25.00	*13	25.00	*6	25.00
Bird Adult	61,358	4.00	60,030	4.00	60,996	4.00	59,749	4.00	47,780	4.00	46,061	4.00	50,621	4.00	44,707	4.00	37,627	4.00
Bird Youth	4,353	1.00	4,230	1.00	4,082	1.00	3,957	2.00	3,180	2.00	3,240	2.00	3,724	2.00	Disc.		118,496	2.00
Conservation	256,721	1.00	257,407	1.00	282,615	1.00	266,005	1.00	270,308	2.00	113,672	2.00	117,450	2.00	124,377	2.00	146,876	10.00
Conservation & Fishing											158,913	9.00	155,053	9.00	146,436	10.00	146,876	10.00
Conservation, Disabled Res.															800	2.00	1,178	2.00
Deer A - Adult	109,402	7.00	109,290	7.00	119,260	7.00	131,723	7.00	138,156	7.00	131,051	8.00	128,847	9.00	122,309	9.00	111,698	9.00
Deer A - Snr, Youth, Disabled															21,763	4.50	21,339	4.50
Deer A - Youth	9,308	2.00	8,498	2.00	8,439	2.00	8,838	2.00	9,201	2.00	9,854	2.00	10,690	2.00	Disc.			
Deer B - Adult	82	12.00	471	12.00	1,197	12.00	6,299	5.00	11,691	5.00	18,787	5.00	36,549	5.00	79,678	6.00	63,123	6.00
Deer B - Youth	Disc.																	
Elk - Adult	72,466	8.00	75,557	8.00	80,108	8.00	83,844	8.00	87,070	8.00	70,669	9.00	64,376	10.00	62,001	10.00	63,861	10.00
Elk - Ser, Youth, Disabled															10,264	5.00	10,930	5.00
Elk - Youth	4,967	2.00	4,913	2.00	4,903	2.00	5,071	2.00	5,432	2.00	5,003	2.00	5,108	2.00	Disc.			
Fishing	168,307	5.00	170,676	5.00	172,654	5.00	176,530	5.00	172,954	7.00	12,206	7.00	12,757	7.00	13,908	8.00	13,537	8.00
Goat	440	15.00	430	15.00	401	15.00	359	15.00	349	15.00	325	15.00	316	15.00	334	50.00	333	50.00
Lion	574	5.00	643	5.00	614	5.00	787	5.00	893	5.00	1,027	5.00	1,021	5.00	984	10.00	1,045	10.00
Moose	584	25.00	576	25.00	563	25.00	532	25.00	522	25.00	571	25.00	570	25.00	627	50.00	597	50.00
Paddlefish											*4,834	3.00	*4,636	3.00	*5,063	3.00	*3,509	3.00
Pioneer(Fish,Game Bird)	Disc.																	
Senior Deer																		
Senior Elk																		
Sheep**	545	25.00	875	25.00	809	25.00	759	25.00	825	25.00	963	25.00	1,214	25.00	797	50.00	631	50.00
Sportmans	2,106	35.00	2,691	35.00	2,330	35.00	3,403	35.00	5,540	35.00	14,038	35.00	19,598	35.00	24,065	35.00	24,613	35.00
Turkey	*3,224	2.00	*3,350	2.00	*3,900	2.00	*4,163	2.00	5,427	2.00	*6,558	3.00	7,239	3.00	*7,944	3.00	*6,503	3.00

Nonresident Licenses	1977	COST	1978	COST	1979	COST	1980	COST	1981	COST	1982	COST	1983	COST	1984	COST	1985	COST
Antelope	2,195	50.00	1,975	50.00	963	50.00	1,233	100.00	1,387	100.00	2,009	100.00	2,935	100.00	5,126	100.00	6,077	100.00
Antelope (with combination)		Disc.																
Archery	*9,239	6.00	*10,424	6.00	*11,304	6.00	*13,945	6.00	15,811	6.00	*17,233	6.00	18,639	6.00	*19,921	6.00	*21,753	6.00
Bear - Black - Season	45	50.00	81	50.00	108	50.00	620	100.00	622	100.00	655	100.00	815	100.00	899	100.00	1,081	100.00
Bear - Black - Spring	412	50.00	613	50.00	1,057	50.00	Disc.											
Bear - Grizzly	102	125.00	119	125.00	112	125.00	123	150.00	123	125.00	83	175.00	113	175.00	53	300.00	19	300.00
Bear - Grizzly Trophy	*5	25.00	*7	25.00	*11	25.00	*11	25.00	11	25.00	*17	25.00	*8	25.00	*13	25.00	*6	25.00
Bird	2,240	30.00	2,157	30.00	2,480	30.00	2,638	30.00	2,648	30.00	3,297	30.00	5,040	30.00	5,884	30.00	4,616	30.00
Combination (Bird-Fish)	960	50.00	994	50.00	951	50.00	Disc.											
Combination (Elk-Deer-etc.)	13,767	225.00	16,553	225.00	17,000	225.00	17,000	225.00	17,000	225.00	17,000	225.00	17,000	275.00	17,000	300.00	17,000	300.00
Cons. & Fishing																		
Conservation																		
Deer A Only																		
Deer B Only																		
Deer Only	0	50.00	0	50.00	314	50.00	653	50.00	Disc.									
Fishing - Season	13,250	20.00	14,100	20.00	14,396	20.00	14,903	20.00	17,932	20.00	1,978	30.00	2,120	30.00	3,053	30.00	3,140	30.00
Fishing - 1-day	154,576	2.00	153,325	2.00	127,469	2.00	134,949	2.00	160,531	2.00	Disc.							
Fishing - 2-day																		
Fishing - 6-day	21,549	10.00	22,838	10.00	23,427	10.00	22,358	10.00	26,798	10.00	178,605	4.00	175,793	4.00	140,218	6.00	144,782	6.00
Goat	27	75.00	26	75.00	22	75.00	15	150.00	15	150.00	13	175.00	14	175.00	17	300.00	19	300.00
Lion	102	25.00	123	25.00	111	25.00	61	100.00	69	100.00	93	100.00	132	100.00	80	300.00	92	300.00
Moose	18	125.00	12	125.00	12	125.00	6	150.00	10	150.00	6	175.00	11	175.00	18	300.00	19	300.00
Paddlefish																		
Sheep**	176	125.00	339	125.00	288	125.00	218	150.00	214	150.00	*4,834	3.00	*4,636	3.00	*5,063	3.00	*3,509	3.00
Turkey	*3,224	2.00	*3,350	2.00	*3,900	2.00	*4,163	2.00	5,427	2.00	*6,558	3.00	7,239	3.00	*7,944	3.00	*6,503	3.00

\* = Both Resident and Nonresident license included

\*\* = Both limited and unlimited license included







# CONSERVATION EDUCATION DIVISION



The Department's activities continue to generate considerable interest and news. The Conservation Education Division, through its Helena office and seven regional information officers, is the public relations arm of the Department. Primary areas of responsibility include disseminating public information, producing audio visual materials, producing publications, brochures and news releases, conducting youth education programs, providing reception services for the Helena office, producing all hunting and fishing regulations and maps, and coordinating the Department's Hunter Education, Snowmobiling and Boating Education and Safety programs. This Division publishes the Department's magazine, MONTANA OUTDOORS, maintains a film lending library, produces 16mm color films, and produces television and radio public service announcements.

MONTANA OUTDOORS, the Department's bi-monthly magazine, maintains a paid subscription of about 34,000. In addition, 2,700 copies of each issue are distributed through other means, such as newsstands. In 1985, the magazine continued to produce an annual photo issue.

Through the Film Center, black and white photographs and other photographic materials were produced on a variety of Department topics. In addition, slide duplication and distribution were provided. Through our film catalog, we estimate that the 114 different film titles maintained in our film library were booked in excess of 1,800 times. Approximately 83,700 people viewed these films or those housed in regional offices.

During 1985, the Department's newest documentary, "The Bridge," was nominated for and won several prestigious awards: a CINE Golden Eagle from Washington, D.C., a gold award from the New York International Film and Television Festival, a 4-star award from Outdoor Writers of America, first place from the Association for Conservation Information, and the Diplom from Eko Films Festival of Czechoslovakia.





News releases were sent to an average of 300 recipients per week from the Helena headquarters. In total, 380 news releases were printed in Helena and our regional offices. These releases were used by newspapers, and radio and television stations and many were distributed via the Associated Press (AP) wire. Outdoor writers also used many of our releases in national outdoor sports magazines.

A weekly feature item entitled "Montana Outdoors Newspaper Columns" was produced and went to newspapers, radio stations, sportsmen's clubs, outdoor writers and other interested persons.

Information Desk personnel in Helena processed an estimated 24,000 telephone and 13,000 letter inquiries during the year. In addition, these people greeted about 5,000 visitors to our headquarters office in Helena and sold about \$118,000 in licenses.

During the year, 55 radio public service announcements were provided to 46 radio stations, and Department personnel provided 390 interviews to radio stations statewide. Twenty-three public service announcements were sent to 12 television stations in Montana. Additionally, Helena personnel and regional information officers appeared approximately 350 times on Montana television stations to disseminate FWP information.

Through our youth education programs and the services of our regional information officers, 270 programs, 27 banquet speeches, 17 summer camps and one-hour programs in 98 schools were given. These information efforts reached approximately 44,000 people. Work continued on Project WILD, an interdisciplinary effort aimed at environmental education for youth. Project WILD is sponsored by the Department in conjunction with the Office of Public Instruction. Three major workshops were held during the year and teachers were certified.

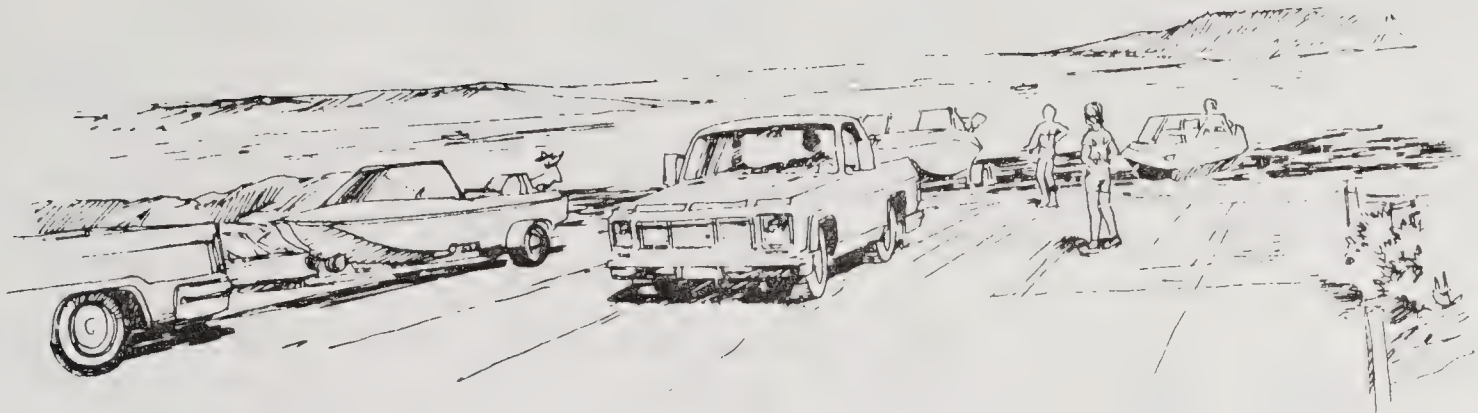
Publications continued to be a big part of the Division effort. Several new informational pamphlets were produced and included the following: Stream Access in Montana, It's the Law, Choosing a Trophy Mountain Goat, and updated floating guides.

The Hunter Education Program certified approximately 6,000 Montana youth between the ages of 12 and 18 during the year. The Boating and Snowmobiling education programs also provided information to the public on the safety aspects of these two recreational past-times.





# ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



The Division goal is to achieve an acceptable level of compliance of Fish, Wildlife and Parks laws and regulations. This includes enforcing the laws of this state and the rules of the Department with reference to the protection, preservation of game, furbearing animals, fish and game birds, and enforcing laws and regulations relative to Department owned or administered lands or waters, boat safety, hunter safety and snowmobile safety.

Other duties include administration of special purpose licenses including private fish ponds, taxidermists, fur dealers, landowner trappers, outfitters and guides, falconers, game farms, fur farms, bird farms, zoos, shooting preserves and approximately 400 license agents. The Division is responsible for administering the Outfitter Act and coordinating with the Montana Outfitter Council to establish standards for outfitting and guiding. The Division investigates wildlife damage complaints (fur, waterfowl, and big game) and provides assistance to landowners in alleviating damage from wildlife. It also assists in the protection, conservation, and propagation of fish, game, furbearing animals, game and nongame birds. This includes additional time spent tagging fur bearers, plugging sheep heads, trophy measuring mountain goat and mountain sheep horns, collecting deer, elk, and moose jaws and black bear teeth.





Certain accomplishment areas were as follows:

	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
Citations Issued	3,521	3,543	4,267	4,575	5,683	5,353	4,539
Fish Creel Checks	49,797	44,637	49,308	59,752	64,260	67,180	64,747
Game Bag Checks	37,914	37,068	48,810	56,398	58,328	54,584	48,848
Annual Mi. Drvn.	1,754,259	1,237,215*	1,364,289	1,535,379	1,600,055	1,599,723	1,484,760

\*Extreme travel restrictions due to budget restraints.

The Division has again utilized saturation patrols in high use and problem areas. High visibility and public relations are associated with this program.

Starting in 1985, fish and game wardens were limited to a 40 hour work week because of a U.S. Supreme Court decision. Wardens had to prioritize and adjust their work schedule in order not to work in excess of 40 hours in a work week. Comp time is no longer allowed and the Department must now pay over-time at time-and-one-half to meet emergency situations.

In addition, the Division continued a physical fitness program for wardens. Personnel are administering medical health screening and beginning physical fitness plans.

During the fiscal year, personnel developed a record keeping system as a result of new legislation - HB 611 (tatooing wild animals), HB 581 (aviculturist permits) and grizzly parts registration.

Division personnel developed and presented comprehensive water safety programs to several public and private sector groups.

Emphasis has been placed on training and professional development with annual total division seminars and regional zone training. Programs for warden inservice training are ongoing. Workload criteria has been developed for each warden district with subsequent performance standards to evaluate program effectiveness. The Division continues to provide conservation officer training to other Department employees and participates in implementation of regional conservation officer programs.





# FIELD SERVICES DIVISION



The Field Services Division is responsible for several functions with its primary emphasis being the liaison between the Directors' Office and the Regional Supervisors and their clerical staff. The primary responsibility of the regions is to assure program implementation and budget compliance. The Field Services Division also includes the Department's Personnel and Aircraft Units. This Division is staffed with a total of 29 FTEs located within the Helena headquarters and throughout the Department's seven administrative regions.

The responsibility of the Personnel staff includes developing and maintaining a personnel manual, hiring procedures, Department policies, grievance procedures, personnel records, performance appraisals, training, etc.

The Department's Aircraft Unit includes three pilots, three fixed-wing aircraft and two helicopters. Two of the pilots are based in Helena and one in Billings. These pilots are responsible for Department personnel transportation, mountain lake fish planting, enforcement patrols and wildlife surveys.

Another Division responsibility is the Department's game damage program. Responsibilities include budget control, supply requisition and allocation, policy determination and program direction. Research into various game damage techniques is anticipated during the next fiscal year.

Another responsibility of the Field Services Division is the development of a cooperative landowner/sportsman program. The purpose of this program is to properly recognize the role of private land and the private landowner in the production and utilization of Montana's wildlife resource and to attempt to maintain current levels of wildlife production and hunter access to these private lands.

The final responsibility of the Field Services Division is to plan and implement a Department data processing system in the Helena and regional offices.





# FISHERIES DIVISION



Upper Missouri River Reservoir operating guidelines for fish, wildlife and recreation were completed. This document identifies water levels and flow release patterns for Canyon Ferry, Hauser and Holter reservoirs which optimize recreational values and minimize impacts on fish and wildlife in the area.

Fisheries personnel worked with the Bureau of Reclamation to initiate a study aimed at solving the gas supersaturation problem for fish in the Bighorn River. A likely solution is the installation of generators in the reregulating dam. Water plunging over the sluiceway entrains gas. Running all water through generators eliminates the use of the sluiceway.

A comprehensive two-year study was completed on the fishery of the Fort Peck Dam tailwater and dredge cut area. The study assessed the potential impacts from a proposed increase in hydropower production at the dam.

Gill netting data from Willow Creek Reservoir from 1973 through 1985 shows, after the cessation of fall spawning rainbow trout stocking in 1977, the number of wild spring spawning rainbow trout increased 427 percent and wild brown trout 94 percent. Most of the increase in wild rainbow trout numbers was due to introductions of the Lake DeSmet rainbow trout.

The siting study and preliminary plans for renovating and enlarging the Miles City Fish Hatchery were completed.





1985 Fish Planting Records for the top eight lakes  
in terms of fishing pressure

	<u>Species</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Number</u>
Canyon Ferry Res.	Rainbow	0-3"	194,111
		4-6"	497,855
Flathead Lake	Kokanee	0-3"	180,000
Holter Lake	Rainbow	4-6"	310,631
Clark Canyon Res.	Rainbow	4-6"	208,109
Hebgen Lake	Yellowstone cutthroat	4-6"	14,132
		7" & over	10,023
Georgetown Lake	Rainbow	4-6"	256,250
		7" & over	194
Lake Koocanusa	Westslope cutthroat	0-3"	556,850
		4-6"	99,996
Hauser Lake	Rainbow	4-6"	232,468
TOTAL			<hr/> 2,560,619





# PARKS DIVISION



The Montana State Legislature created authority for the State Park System in 1939 when it defined its purpose of "... conserving the scenic, historic, archaeologic, scientific, and recreational resources of the state and providing for their use and enjoyment...." Since that time the State Park System has grown into a million dollar operation with 335 sites, one which hosts over 4½ million visitors annually. In addition to this "core" park system, other responsibilities include the administration of the State snowmobile program; development, operation and maintenance of motorboat facilities; and the administration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). LWCF is a federal grants-in-aid program for local and state outdoor recreation projects.

Total visitation to the Montana State Park system during calendar year 1984 is calculated at over 4.5 million people, a 1% increase over 1983 visitation.

	Visits	% Change From Previous Year
Calendar Year 1982	4,146,400	+17%
Calendar Year 1983	4,469,700	+ 8%
Calendar Year 1984	4,550,100	+ 1%

The oldest and one of the most attractive state parks in Montana, Lewis and Clark Caverns, serves as a good indicator site with respect to visitation. Tour ticket sales at the Caverns in 1984 incurred a nine percent decrease over the previous year. Combined with the calculated one percent increase in statewide visitation, this would suggest little change in overall





visitation between 1983 and 1984.

LEWIS AND CLARK CAVERNS  
Tour Ticket Sales

	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% Change From Previous Year</u>
Calendar Year 1982	3,642	10,018	18,565	16,004	4,673	52,902	-9
Calendar Year 1983	4,308	10,876	20,349	16,977	4,568	57,078	+8
Calendar Year 1984	4,220	9,310	18,179	16,244	4,139	52,092	-9

A new 84 acre recreation area, called Glen Lake and located on the outskirts of Bozeman, was acquired in 1984 and is currently in the developmental planning stages. Another donation of 10.59 acres has enlarged the White Bear recreation area near Great Falls and a 25 year lease agreement has provided a historical homestead site for a new state monument east of Lewis and Clark Caverns. Six new sites have been purchased for development as fishing, boating, or camping areas. These are Tarkio, Kelly Island, Woodside Bridge, Dry Canyon, Truly, and Pelican Point.

Eighty acres in the form of a Conservation Easement were donated to the Department for the preservation of the Rock Creek drainage in Granite County and to protect significant natural habitat for fish, wildlife and plants.

44.743 acres which had been declared surplus at Bratten Fishing Access Site were sold. The lease for the High Road Fishing Access Site expired and is being renegotiated. Tongue River and Indian Road were reclassified as State Recreation Areas. Johnson Reservoir was returned to Department of State Lands control.

Land Summary

Type of Area	Number of Sites as of 7/1/84	Number of Sites as of 6/30/85	Total Acres
State Parks	11	11	15,369.53
State Monuments	19	20	6,495.23
State Recreation Areas	79	80	10,685.52
Fishing Access Sites	232	224	18,398.97
*Total	341	335	50,949.25

\*These figures do not include a State Recreation Road, a State Recreation Trail (in the Sluice Boxes State Monument area) and the five State Recreational Waterways.

In FY 1985 Land Section activity accounted for the addition of 735.07 acres to the Parks System. A second land agent was hired to more effectively deal with the Department's voluminous land transactions. Design work continued on the Region 3 and 4 headquarters replacements.

Operations and Maintenance Funding for the Parks Division comes from several sources. The General Fund and Parks earned revenue sources can be used in support of any Division activity or program. All other funding sources are earmarked, i.e. their use is restricted to specific sites or activities.





A portion of the Coal Severance Tax Trust Revenue has been used for maintenance of sites purchased with interest from the Coal Tax Trust Fund. The 1985 Legislature passed HB2 which now allows operations and maintenance to be funded by Coal Tax revenues at any State Park System site. Motorboat Fuel Tax Revenue is used for the operation and development of sites on or adjacent to waterways where boating takes place. Sportsmen license revenues are used for maintenance of Fishing Access Sites and other sportsmen's access areas. Snowmobile registration fees and fuel tax revenue are used for snowmobile trail maintenance. Earned revenue funding reflects overnight camping and day use fees, Lewis and Clark Caverns tour fees, and cabin site lease permits. Other miscellaneous revenues include the Land and Water Conservation Fund and donations.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a federal program which provides grants to states and their political subdivisions to assist with acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Grants may be used to fund up to 50% of outdoor recreation project costs.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks was designated by law in 1965 as the responsible state agency with the Parks Division actually administering the program. In the twenty years since the program's inception, Montana has received \$28,845,712 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. With the '50% matching requirement, this has resulted in \$57,691,424 being expended on public outdoor recreation areas and facilities in Montana.

In fiscal 1985, Montana's Land and Water Conservation Fund apportionment totalled \$689,775. Approximately 58% of this allocation was utilized by local governments for the acquisition, development and renovation of outdoor recreation facilities. The remainder of the allocation was earmarked for Parks Division site improvements around the state. Although specific LWCF project plans are not complete, legislative approval has been granted to expend these funds on development at Spring Meadow Lake SRA and on various statewide Fishing Access Site protection projects.

An early and heavy snow brought snowmobilers out in force for the 1984-85 season and grooming operations were well underway early in December.

Use of groomed snowmobile trails increased throughout the state with the exception of Region 3. This southwestern portion of the state did not experience the heavy snows of other snowmobile areas.

Maintaining trail grooming equipment in operating condition during this snowmobile season was a major task. Total equipment repairs during this time period amounted to \$13,145.

In fiscal 1985, approximately \$189,600 was expended on operations, maintenance, repairs, development and administration of Montana's snowmobile program.





In 1975, the 44th Legislature initiated a state coal severance tax and 1.67% of coal severance tax collections were allocated to an earmarked trust fund for the purpose of acquisition, operation, and maintenance of park system sites.

The 1985 Legislature broadened the definition of "maintenance" to include all State Parks, Recreation Areas and Monuments regardless of whether they were purchased with Coal Tax revenue.

Any person, association, or representative of a governing unit may submit a proposal for the acquisition of a site or area that would meet State Park System criteria. Such a proposal must be submitted to the Parks Division of the Department by July 1 of the year preceding the convening of a legislative session. The Fish and Game Commission then presents to the Legislature, by the 15th day of the session, a list of areas, sites, or objects proposed for purchase with funds contained in the earmarked account.

Since 1977, the Coal Tax has provided over \$4.5 million for the acquisition of some 26 parcels of Park System property.





# WILDLIFE DIVISION



The management of the wildlife resources of Montana require extensive information about wildlife and their habitats as well as the expertise to understand and utilize the information. The goal of the Wildlife Division is to protect, enhance and regulate the wise use of the wildlife resource for public benefit now and in the future. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the Wildlife Division to collect and analyze necessary information and to recommend and carry out a sound wildlife and wildlife habitat management program.

Information that is gathered provides the biological basis for game, waterfowl and fur season recommendations presented to the Commission each year. The information is also utilized in developing cooperative programs with public and private landowners as well as private industry to manage, protect and enhance wildlife habitat. This involves developing guidelines to allow for development while protecting Montana's wildlife heritage. The Division also operates and maintains the Department's wildlife management areas totaling 294,425 acres. Of these 188,369 acres are deeded, 106,056 acres are leased and the remaining acreage is managed by a Memorandum of Understanding.

During the past several years the various wildlife species have been assigned a priority rank. As might be expected deer, elk and antelope were ranked as the species needing the most attention. Harvest goals, populations levels, and identification of problems associated with the major herds of these animals in each administrative region have been described. Other species which have increased in priority and associated effort are grizzly bear, black bear, nongame, waterfowl and furbearers.

The "allowable rate of harvest" for these herds is being determined using population modeling. This harvest rate is to be coordinated with the population's highs and lows. Simply stated, liberal hunting seasons need to occur when these herds are increasing and restrictive seasons when they are decreasing. The trick is to anticipate increases, peaks, decreases and valleys before they occur. Considerable progress has been made by the Wildlife Division for some species in determining the factors causing and indicating these events.





MONTANA BIG GAME HARVEST, 1968-1984

		ANTELOPE	BLACK		ELK	GOAT		MOOSE	SHEEP	
			BEAR	DEER		LIMITED	UNLIMITED		LIMITED	UNLIMITED
1968	No. Hunters	16,150	8,290	125,711	77,962	598	200	643	75	172
	Harvest	11,500	1,700	99,250	16,700	263	29	457	55	13
	Percent Success	71	24	79	21	44	14	71	74	7
1969	No. Hunters	19,871	8,787	128,177	73,848	537	213	645	77	279
	Harvest	14,543	1,700	102,800	12,100	267	66	457	50	17
	Percent Success	73	20	80	16	49	31	71	65	7
1970	No. Hunters	23,697	7,204	136,903	77,819	573	223	670	59	447
	Harvest	18,023	1,079	110,988	13,988	303	51	518	43	31
	Percent Success	76	15	80	18	52	23	86	73	7
1971	No. Hunters	24,802	5,105	141,243	72,337	546	Discontinued	651	72	574
	Harvest	18,403	1,185	116,716	11,785	234		427	50	54
	Percent Success	74	23	83	16	43		66	70	9
1972	No. Hunters	27,762	3,382	152,545	75,951	556		766	76	754
	Harvest	19,710	928	112,996	10,867	280		597	57	35
	Percent Success	71	27	74	15	50		78	75	5
1973	No. Hunters	28,062	5,019	167,359	87,746	571		780	98	776
	Harvest	19,303	1,347	137,441	17,498	306		532	80	54
	Percent Success	69	27	82	20	54		68	82	7
1974	No. Hunters	27,163	5,705	154,110	89,369	508		763	121	631
	Harvest	18,810	1,527	103,656	10,930	237		498	89	10
	Percent Success	69	27	67	12	47		65	74	2
1975	No. Hunters	25,022	6,201	148,109	91,956	500		698	124	534
	Harvest	17,298	1,252	77,496	15,750	302		376	100	20
	Percent Success	69	20	52	17	60		54	81	4
1976	No. Hunters	23,273	10,187	112,783	74,190	410		587	90	438
	Harvest	16,292	1,637	43,291	7,860	230		401	81	24
	Percent Success	70	16	38	11	56		68	90	5
1977	No. Hunters	24,214	10,187	120,798	79,628					
	Harvest	18,528	1,637	54,143	13,342					
	Percent Success	77	16	45	17					
1978	No. Hunters	18,393	5,262	125,054	86,636	409		569	133	510
	Harvest	13,471	909	53,933	12,017	238		406	113	23
	Percent Success	73	17	43	14	58		71	85	4
1979	No. Hunters	14,170	10,666	139,895	89,367	392		568	121	651
	Harvest	10,039	795	64,134	11,692	234		421	109	34
	Percent Success	71	7	46	13	60		74	91	5





1980	No. Hunters	16,104	18,135	151,918	89,822	339	Discontinued	525	181	303
	Harvest	12,016	1,870	85,164	14,841	230		389	166	15
	Percent Success	75	10	56	17	68		74	91	5
1981	No. Hunters	18,973	13,262	153,710	88,153	336		508	180	384
	Harvest	14,954	1,450	88,797	12,868	208		408	164	14
	Percent Success	79	11	58	15	61.9		80	91	4
1982	No. Hunters	22,767	10,642	160,077	90,103	308		567	220	449
	Harvest	20,830	1,277	100,340	14,009	170		497	202	18
	Percent Success	92	13	62	16	55		88	92	4
1983	No. Hunters	27,485	13,062+	200,484	95,811	290		567	351	324
	Harvest	26,438	1,820	137,534	15,013	189		481	317	19
	Percent Success	96	14	69	16	65		85	90	6
1984	No. Hunters	32,047	11,354	237,036	86,443	315		619	297	295
	Harvest	28,588	1,373	169,649	18,478	215		554	261	21
	Percent Success	89	12	72	21	68		89	87	7

+of 43,222 persons licensed to hunt black bear 5,112 of them hunted in the spring and 7,950 of them hunted in the fall.

#### ARCHERY HUNTING, 1969 - 1984

Year	Deer		Elk		Antelope	
	Hunters	Harvest	Hunters	Harvest	Hunters	Harvest
1969	1,738	259	934	58	97	0
1970	3,438	440	1,780	29	215	34
1971	4,066	593	2,208	57	235	7
1972	4,794	511	2,966	77	426	23
1973	7,162	712	4,927	112	489	22
1974	7,965	663	5,636	81	489	25
1975	7,972	805	5,344	175	508	85
1976	6,000	485	4,927	198	474	60
1977	7,143	825	6,338	269	498	90
1978	7,849	865	7,238	354	347	50
1979	12,096	850	7,265	363	240	7
1980	15,081	1,398	9,060	444	366	34
1981	14,725	1,512	9,263	408	470	106
1982	16,082	1,821	9,655	504	466	57
1983	15,154*	2,237	9,970	578	631	127
1984	17,780	2,553	11,053	783	839	164

\*of 18,481 archery licenses sold 82 percent or 15,154 of the holders actually went hunting. It is assumed that all these people at least hunted deer.











***Montana Department of  
Fish, Wildlife & Parks***

**1420 East Sixth Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620**

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